

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A method executed by an agent on a computing system, providing robustness to an accounting function of user sessions established by at least one NAS in an IP network, the accounting function being performed on a RADIUS server storing an ID, IP address and secret code for each of the at least one NAS and information identifying each established session, said method comprising the steps of:

- identifying for the RADIUS server, the agent as a RADIUS client of the RADIUS server,
- polling from the agent the at least one NAS and, if no answer is received from at least one non-responding NAS,
- sending from the agent a RADIUS stop accounting request to the RADIUS server for all sessions established by the at least one non-responding NAS.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying step comprises the step of storing the ID, the IP address and the secret code of the agent.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polling step comprises the step of waiting for an expiration of a timer which is a first parameter defined during an installation of the agent.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polling step is repeated n times, n being an integer defined at an installation of the agent.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polling step and the sending step further comprise a step of reading a table owned by the RADIUS server containing one entry per established session and, for each entry, information to identify the NAS and prepare parameters for the RADIUS stop accounting request.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the sending step comprises a preliminary step, after reading the established session table, of, including as parameters of the RADIUS stop accounting request: accounting status, accounting session time, a NAS

identifier; a session identifier and an authenticator.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

- computing the accounting session time by subtracting the session start time read in the established session table from a current computing system timestamp; and,
- computing the authenticator as a function of the secret code read with the ID and the IP address stored for the corresponding NAS.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~comprising programming code instructions for executing the steps of the method according to of claim 1~~ providing robustness to an accounting function of user sessions established by at least one NAS in an IP network, the accounting function being performed on a RADIUS server storing an ID, IP address, and secret code for each of the at least one NAS and information identifying each established session, when said computer program product is executed on a computing system, the computer program product comprising programming code instructions for:

identifying for the RADIUS server, the agent as a RADIUS client of the RADIUS server,

polling from the agent the at least one NAS and, if no answer is received from at least one non-responding NAS, and

sending from the agent a RADIUS stop accounting request to the RADIUS server for all sessions established by the at least one non-responding NAS.

9. (Currently Amended) A computing system for providing robustness to an accounting function of user sessions established by at least one NAS in an IP network, the accounting function being performed on a RADIUS server storing an ID, IP address, and secret code for each of the at least one NAS and information identifying each established session, comprising: ~~means adapted for carrying out the method according to of claim 1~~

a system for identifying for the RADIUS server, the agent as a RADIUS client of

the RADIUS server,

a system for polling from the agent the at least one NAS and, if no answer is received from at least one non-responding NAS, and

a system for sending from the agent a RADIUS stop accounting request to the RADIUS server for all sessions established by the at least one non-responding NAS.